

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-07

CIAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PRS-01 USSS-00 /047 W

----- 122346

O R 161700Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4787

SECDEF IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 14288

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SCHLESINGER, JAMES R), UK, US

SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO UK

REF: (A) STATE 219220; (B) STATE 219837;

(C) STATE 219838; (B) STATE 219841

1. WE CONVEYED THE TEXT OF PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE IN REFTTEL A TO WILBERFORCE, HEAD OF DEFENSE DEPT., FCO, WITH A COPY TO MAYNE, MASON'S PRIVATE SECRETARY, ASKING FOR UK CONCURRENCE/COMMENTS ASAP.

2. RE REFTTEL B, IISS IS PLEASED WITH PARA 1 AND AGREES WITH PARA 2. IISS BEGS THAT WE PROVIDE TITLE OF SECDEF TALK IMMEDIATELY SO THAT INVITATIONS CAN BE SENT OUT SEPTEMBER 18 LATEST.

3. RE REFTTEL C, PM'S OFFICE AND MOD INFORMED. BRITISH ARE DELIGHTED AND CONVEY REGRET FOR 'ADDITIONAL DIFFICULTIES IMPOSED ON SECDEF'S SCHEDULE IN OTHER COUNTRIES'. PM'S OFFICE CALLED TO SAY THAT THEY ARE HOPEFUL LUNCH WILL BE LIMITED TO THE TWO PRINCIPALS ON EACH SIDE (PM/MASON AND SECDEF/AMBASSADOR) PLUS ONE (A PRIVATE SECRETARY FOR PM) SO PRESUMABLY THE US CAN ALSO BRING A NOTETAKER. IN ANY EVENT, SMALLNESS OF PARTY AND INTIMACY
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OF THE GROUP IS EMPHASIZED. BRITISH ASKED RHETORICALLY

IF SECDEF MIGHT NOT DISPENSE WITH SECRET SERVICE ATTENDANCE TO CHEQUERS SINCE PM AND CHEQUERS ARE 'MORE THAN ADEQUATELY GUARDED' AND FACILITIES FOR FEEDING SECRET SERVICE ARE NOT AVAILABLE WHILE CHEQUERS IS UNDERGOING "REFURBISHMENT".

4. RE REFTEL D, MOD ASKS FOR PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF US PARTY FOR (A) MASON-SECDEF LUNCH (LIMITED AT PRESENT TO 7 PLUS 7); (B) PLENARY DISCUSSION SESSION; (C) THE THURSDAY FIELD TRIP TO BOVINGTON CAMP, TANK MUSEUM ETC. THEY BELIEVE PARTY SHOULD BE LIMITED TO 12 AND THIS INCLUDES THE FOUR MEDIA REPS.;(D) RE LUNCH WITH V/ADM SIR LOUIS LE BAILLY, MOD ENVISAGES "SECDEF PLUS ONE". THE REST OF THE PARTY WILL LUNCH AT BOVINGTON. WE INFORMED MOD THAT MG WICKHAM WOULD ACCOMPANY SECDEF ,TO ALL MEETINGS REGARDLESS OF SIZE". WE GOT IMPRESSION THAT THIS SURPRISED THEM VIS-A-VIS CHEQUERS LUNCH.

5. RE CERTAIN HOUSEKEEPING DETAILS, THE PROTOCOL OFFICE, MOD, ASKS THE FOLLOWING TO BE NOTED: (A) THROUGHOUT VISIT SECDEF'S UK ESCORT OFFICER WILL BE GROUP CAPTAIN WILLIAM FARQUHANSON, RAF; (B) MOD WILL HANDLE BAGGAGE FOR SECDEF PARTY TO CHURCHILL; (C) AT ROYAL SUITE MOD WILL HAVE 3 DAIMLERS TO TRANSPORT "THE SENIOR NINE MEMBERS. OF SECDEF PARTY. EMBASSY WILL FURNISH TRANSPORTATION FOR OTHERS; (D) FOR SATURDAY LUNCH WITH PM, CAR FROM CHURCHILL TO BATTERSEA HELIPORT FOR RIDE TO CHEQUERS. BRITISH ARE HOPEFUL THEY CAN LIMIT TRIP TO USE OF ONE HELICOPTER. THEY PLAN DEPARTURE FROM CHEQUERS AT 1430 ARRIVING ROYAL SUITE, HEATHROW AT 1455 FOR POSSIBLE 1515 DEPARTURE. REQUEST WASHINGTON COMMENTS.

6. IN GENERAL CONVERSATION CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS, EMB-OFF RELAYED RUBRICS/TOPICS CONVEYED BY TIMBERLAKE TELECON. MAYNE NOTED THAT "WHILE THERE IS NO LACK OF WORTHWHILE ITEMS" TO DISCUSS, MOD WOULD APPRECIATE EARLIEST POSSIBLE FORMAL INDICATION OF TOPICS SECDEF WISHES TO RAISE, PARTICULARLY ANY "SPECIAL ISSUES" FOR THURSDAY DISCUSSIONS WITH ENNALS, HEALEY AND PRIME MINISTER.

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7. EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT SECDEF PARTY BRING EXTRA BRIEFING BOOK FOR AMBASSADOR'S USE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LONDON14288
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750320-0948
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750948/aaaabqql.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 219220, 75 STATE 219837
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 APR 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <23 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO UK
TAGS: OVIP, UK, US, (SCHLESINGER, JAMES R)
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006